



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Assembly Bill 33	Assembly Amendments 1, 2 and 3
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Current law requires that all telecommunications providers contribute to the Universal Service Fund (USF) unless the Public Service Commission (PSC) has granted a telecommunications provider an exemption based on small gross intrastate operating revenues or made a determination that it is not in the public interest to require a provider to make such contributions*. Current law also states that telecommunications may not establish a separate surcharge on customers' bills in order to collect the required USF contributions.

2001 Assembly Bill 33 allows telecommunications providers to establish a surcharge on customers' bills in order to collect the monies for the required USF contributions.

Assembly Amendment 2 repeals the PSC's authority to exempt telecommunications providers from making part or all of the required USF contribution if the PSC determined that enforcing the contribution requirement was not in the public interest.

Assembly Amendment 3 requires the PSC to promulgate rules that establish requirements for determining the amount of the surcharge placed on customers' bills. The amendment also prohibits telecommunications providers from establishing a surcharge unless it complies with the PSC rules.

Assembly Amendment 2 was recommended by the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology by a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes 2, on February 13, 2001.

Assembly Amendment 3 was recommended by the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology by a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0, on February 13, 2001.

DWS:tlu

* See s. 196.218 (3) (b), Stats.